Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (original) A pharmaceutical composition for sustained release comprising as active ingredient an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, said composition comprising an inner phase (internal) and an outer phase (external), wherein at least the outer phase comprises at least one matrix former.

2. (original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of atorvastatin, cerivastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, pitavastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, and simvastatin, or, in each case, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (original) A composition according to claim 2, wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is pitavastatin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. (currently amended) A composition according ~~to anyone of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the amount of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is about 5-50 weight % of the composition.

5. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the amount of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is about 1-32 mg.

6. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the inner phase comprises a matrix former .

7. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 6, wherein the matrix former of the inner phase comprises one or more types of matrix former components having different viscosities.

8. (original) A composition according to claim 7, wherein the matrix former of the inner phase has a viscosity of about 1 to about 500 cps.

9. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein the matrix former of the external phase comprises one or more type of matrix former component having different viscosities.

10. (original) A composition according to claim 9 , wherein the matrix former of the external phase has a viscosity of about 100 to about 100000cps.

11. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein the matrix former is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, hydrophilic polymers such as hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose or the like.

12. (original) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the matrix former is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC).

13. (original) A composition according to claim 12 wherein the amount of HPMC as a matrix former is about 1-60 weight % of the composition.

14. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 13~~, wherein said composition further comprises a stabilizer .

15. (original) A composition according to claim 14, wherein the stabilizer is magnesium aluminium metasilicate (neusilin).

16. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~, wherein the amount of the stabilizer is about 1-15 weight % of the composition.

17. (currently amended) A method of treatment of hyperlipidemia, hypercholesterolemia and atherosclerosis, as well as other diseases or conditions in which HMG-CoA reductase is implicated comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 16~~.

18. (currently amended) Use of the composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 16~~ in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment or prevention of a cardiovascular disease, e.g., hypercholesterolemia, hyperproteinemia and /or atherosclerosis.

19. (new) A composition according claim 3, wherein the amount of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is about 5-50 weight % of the composition

20. (new) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the amount of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is about 5-50 weight % of the composition

21. (new) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the amount of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is about 1-32mg.

22. (new) A composition according to claim 3 , wherein the inner phase comprises a matrix former

23. (new) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the matrix former of the external phase comprises one or more type of matrix former component having different viscosities.

24. (new) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the matrix former is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, hydrophilic polymers such as hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose or the like.